

In the claims:

---

1. (Currently amended) A symbiotic computing system comprising:

a plurality of symbiotic partners communicatively coupled with one another via a communication link that may be non-secure, each of the plurality of symbiotic partners having a respective instance of a managed resource;

at least two symbiotic partners of the plurality of symbiotic partners receiving input from a local user affecting a respective instance of the managed resource;

the at least two symbiotic partners producing respective actions based upon the respective input and storing the respective input, wherein the respective actions differ from the respective input to mask content of the respective input;

each of the at least two symbiotic partners awaiting availability of communication paths to each other of the plurality of symbiotic partners;

each of the at least two symbiotic partners transmitting respective actions to the each other of the symbiotic partners; ~~and~~

the each other of the symbiotic partners receiving the respective actions from the each of the at least two symbiotic partners and using the respective actions to affect a respective instance of the managed resource to maintain coherency of the managed resource; and

wherein when the each other of the symbiotic partners have used all outstanding respective actions to affect their respective instances of the managed resources, all instances of the managed resource are identical.

2. (previously amended) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein:

the managed resource comprises a data entity;

each of the symbiotic partners retains a respective instance of the data entity; and  
alterations made to an instance of the data entity are made to each other instance of the data entity to maintain coherency.

C 3. (previously amended) The symbiotic computing system of claim 2, wherein alterations made to any instance of the data entity are made to each other instance of the data entity to maintain coherency when communication paths from the each of the at least two symbiotic partners to each other of the plurality of symbiotic partners are available and the respective actions are transmitted.

4. (previously amended) The symbiotic computing system of claim 3, wherein alterations made to any instance of the data entity are made to each other instance of the data entity to maintain coherency.

5. (previously amended) The symbiotic computing system of claim 2, wherein the data entity is selected from the group consisting of data files, data bases, configuration files and source files.

6. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein:  
the managed resource comprises a video image;  
each of the symbiotic partners maintains and displays an instance of the video image; and  
alterations made to one instance of the video image are made to each other instance of the video image to maintain coherency.

7. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein each instance of the managed resource is affected by the actions via an application program.

8. (previously amended) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein the symbiotic computing system resides within a client/server environment.

C 9. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 8, wherein one of the symbiotic partners resides upon a server computer and one of the symbiotic partners resides upon a client computer.

10. (previously amended) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein the symbiotic computing system resides within an object oriented environment.

11. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 10, wherein:

the managed resource includes an object;

a respective instance of the object resides on each of the symbiotic partners; and

coherency is maintained between the instances of the object.

12. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 11, wherein the objects include data objects.

13. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the symbiotic partners operate symmetrically.

14. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the symbiotic partners operate asymmetrically.

15. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein actions are buffered by at least one of the symbiotic partners.

C 16. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 1, wherein actions affecting the managed resource are investigated to determine whether they are consistent.

17. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 16, wherein upon determining that actions are inconsistent, some of the inconsistent actions are rejected.

18. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 16, wherein actions are ordered in an attempt to determine whether they are inconsistent.

19. (original) The symbiotic computing system of claim 16, wherein when it is determined that actions are inconsistent, multiple copies of the managed resource are created.

---